

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

January 23, 2018

BY EMAIL: Jason.hill@ohioattorneygeneral.gov

Jason Hill
Constituent Services Supervisor
Office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine
30 East Broad Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Ohio Open Records Request

Dear Mr. Hill:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to the Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43, *et seq.*

CfA seeks any and all communications to, from, or between any employee of the Office of the Ohio Attorney General and any employee or representative of Family & Youth Initiatives (FYI), including Patricia ‘Pat’ Banaszak. This request is for records from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2015.

By way of background, in February 2012, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine participated in a national settlement agreement with several mortgage servicing companies.¹ The settlement encouraged Mr. DeWine to spend more than \$93 million “on programs that would crack down on mortgage fraud, prevent foreclosures or clean up after the mess left by foreclosures.”² Mr. DeWine gave roughly \$18 million of the \$93 million to Ohio organizations, including \$150,000 to Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI).³ Patricia Banaszak is the Executive Director of FYI.⁴ FYI has received additional public funds, including a grant from the Department of Jobs and Family Services under the Parenting and Pregnancy Support Program⁵ and grants from the Governor’s Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives.⁶

¹ Jim Weiker, *Ohioans Will Get Share of \$25B Pot*, *The Columbus Dispatch*, February 10, 2012.

² Henry J. Gomez, *How Mike DeWine Spent Ohio’s Mortgage Settlement Funds – and Stirred a Foreclosure Prevention Debate*, *Plain Dealer*, October 11, 2013, available at http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2013/10/how_mike_dewine_spent_ohios_mo.html.

³ *Id.*

⁴ https://www.fyiohio.org/about_us.

⁵ http://www.ohiolife.org/parenting_and_pregnancy_support_program.

⁶ Kermit Rowe, *Program to Connect Students, Businesses*, *Dayton Daily News*, October 5, 2015, available at <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/local-education/mentoring-program-connect-clark-county-students-businesses/2c5S2PHE5GaJio2OW9nAbO/>.

Where possible, please produce records electronically.⁷ CfA seeks records of any kind, including electronic records, calendars, schedules, meeting and conference call invitations, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs. This request includes any letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. This request also includes any attachments to these records.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(1), please explain in writing and with particularity the reasons for any determination that a record is exempt from disclosure.⁸ In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record.⁹ If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information.¹⁰

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.¹¹

Please promptly produce the requested records, or pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1), please provide the requested records within a reasonable period of time, or furnish a written acknowledgment of receipt of our request and the approximate date when the request will be granted or denied, as well as when we can reasonably expect to receive the responsive documents. If you foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Office of the Attorney General to process it.

If possible, please email the records to me at koconnor@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., #337, Washington, D.C. 20003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

⁷ Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(7).

⁸ Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(3).

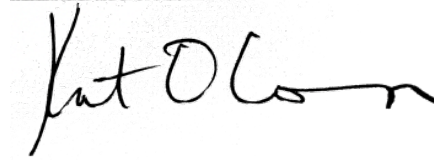
⁹ Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(1).

¹⁰ Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(3).

¹¹ Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(6).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Katie O'Connor
Legal Counsel
Campaign for Accountability